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FLOOR DEBATE

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person did not vote for it. This person, under this proposal, could end up paying property tax, even though they are, by all means or by all indications, really not able to do that. She mentioned saving money on the homestead exemption, and I think she has an excellent point there, but there are better ways to do that. If it's costing the state too much money to support the homestead exemption program, then you increase the house values that are exempt, or you lower the income levels. I think that's a much more appropriate way to do it than with something like this. The final thing I would emphasize is that we require cooperation, particularly in the case of schools,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...but certainly in other areas as well. We require cooperation between state government and local entities. We fund schools, K-12 schools, but we only fund the operations. We expect buildings to be taken care of by locals. Well, I think by inference, we expect local taxpayers to step forward and pass bond issues to provide for buildings so that we can operate school. It is a cooperative agreement. I don't think we ought to get in the business of penalizing taxpayers, or attempting to, because they have agreed to cooperate with the state effort, for example, on K-12 education. I also would reemphasize, I don't think it's wise for us to create a class of victims, low-income people who may or may not have supported the issue, who then become payers of additional property tax because of it. So for those reasons, I'll support the committee amendment,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...but I oppose the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Well, this is actually getting to be a very interesting conversation, and it deserves our attention. The committee amendment is a good idea because it turns shotgun language into rifle language, and gets to the issue that I think motivated first Senator Coordsen, and Senator Redfield. So I